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Pentagon Secrets Hike Speculation

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Anyone who covers the Pentagon beat long enough comes across an almost endless series of mysteries. Some of them get cleared up. Others like the little girl said, just get mysteriouser and mysteriouser.

Among the mysteriouser, variety is one concerning President Kennedy's military adviser, Gen. Maxwell Taylor. There was some mystery as to just what the general was supposed to do in the way of advising the President without cutting across the bow of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

WRITER ON CARPET

It appears now one job is "straightening out" military writers the administration is down on. Taylor had a writer for one of the largest magazines in the country on the carpet recently while others dealt with the magazine's publisher. Serious harm had been done because of the reporter's inaccurate copy, they said.

In a wrapup of the abortive Cuban landing attempt the writer had fingered the administration's contradictory sandwich of command decisions as one of the reasons for the flop.

Another mystery can be

found at that natural home of all good mysteries—the CIA. It is common knowledge the President will soon be naming a successor to present director Allen Dulles. Who the man will be and when he will be appointed is something else.

To paraphrase an old World War II Air Force publicity burb, "The sky overhead was black with trial balloons."

The names of no less than six men have been prominently bandied about as the logical successors to the CIA directorship.

PLANNED LEAK

Some of them were the standard planned leak to test reaction and others came by way of their own drum beaters. They included deputy Atty. Gen. Byron (whizzer) White, Assistant Defense Secretary Paul Nitze, Attys. Telford Taylor and Fowler Hamilton, and Gen. Maxwell Taylor and Army Research and Development Director Gen. Arthur Trudeau.

The administration has had some of its choicer test candidates shot down and now will probably wait until after Congress adjourns before risking another burning by appointing a new director. It will be a great deal more difficult to wedge out a man after he has gotten the feel of the intelligence reigns even on a pro tem basis.